



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	LOKOYA COMMUNITY FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT		
PROJECT LOCATION	Sec. 9 & 16, T6N, R5W, MDBM	COUNTY	Napa
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Megan Scheeline, VMP Forester		
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The Lokoya Community Fuel Reduction Project will treat approximately 107 acres to reduce the threat of wildfire to approximately 75 homes within the project area and thereby protect one of the most densely populated portions of Mount Veeder. The Mount Veeder/Lokoya community is in an area that is densely forested and has not had a significant burn for over 100 years, which has led to a steady accumulation of dense vegetation over time. Wildfire remains a near-constant threat for residents in the area. The slopes and dense live and dead vegetation conditions coupled with exceptional drought conditions exacerbate the threat. Ignition sources continue to multiply as increased human activity expands in the area. Fuel reduction projects are a good mechanism to reduce the impact of wildfires.

Fuel reduction is critical for the safety of the local community since the road that serves this small enclave has only one way in and one way out. This presents a major risk factor when a wildfire occurs. This project will provide a substantial shaded fuel break along natural and manmade ingress and egress corridors. The existing roads will receive fuel modification along with old wagon trails that have been abandoned and overgrown with vegetation providing an alternate escape route for the residents and provide firefighting access. In addition, the project thins the forest within the community boundaries reducing the fuel loading, this reduction may mitigate ignition sources and material while promoting greater forest health for the area. The community will be encircled with a significant shaded fuel break allowing the residents, at a minimum, much needed time to either escape or shelter in place.

The project calls for removing ladder fuels (brush species such as manzanita, toyon and scotch broom and small diameter bay laurel and oak trees < 12" dbh) to reduce the spread of wildfire within 200 feet of roads. Chipped materials will be distributed back onto the soil surface to a maximum depth of 3 inches. The chipper will be towed with a pickup truck and will stay on the road surface. All of the fuel reduction activities will occur on private property and written permission from the landowners will be received prior to the start of operations.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

Field review by Tim Morin, RPF #2505, confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The RPF has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the RPF is kept on file at CAL FIRE's St. Helena office.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



Duane Shintaku 10/27/15
Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection